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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREST-RELATED DECISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS, INCLUDING AN EXAMINATION OF SECTORAL AND CROSS-SECTORAL LINKAGES

Letter dated 15 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations and the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations and the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations have the honour to transmit to you the final report of the Independent Group of Experts** under element V.1 of the programme of work of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The establishment of the Independent Group of Experts was the result of a joint proposal by the Governments of Switzerland and Peru during the first session of the Panel, which took place in New York from 11 to 15 September 1995. Its task was to elaborate a study on the work carried out by international organizations and multilateral institutions and under existing instruments related to forest issues with a view to identifying any gaps, areas requiring enhancement, as well as any areas of duplication. The

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* E/CN.17/IPF/1996/13.

** The report is circulated in the language of submission only.

Group, in which countries from all five regional groups of the United Nations as well as several non-governmental organizations were represented, has held two meetings in Geneva (5-7 March 1996 and 24-28 June 1996). Its report should make an important contribution to the third session of the Panel, scheduled to be held from 9 to 20 September 1996 in Geneva.

In preparation of this session we would be grateful if you could make arrangements to circulate the attached report as an official document of the Panel and consequently distribute it to all Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations in New York as well as to other participants in the session.

(signed): Fernando GUILLÉN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Peru to the United Nations

(signed): Peter MAURER
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Observer Mission
of Switzerland to the
United Nations

SWISS-PERUVIAN INITIATIVE ON FORESTS

REPORT

OF THE

INDEPENDENT EXPERT GROUP

Overview on International Organizations, Institutions and Instruments Related to Forests

Geneva, Switzerland
July 1996

Swiss-Peruvian Initiative on Forests
9-11, rue Varembé
C.P. 60 - 1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 749 24 35/37
Fax: +41 22 749 24 54
E-mail: spif@ge.maxess.ch

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LIST of ACRONYMS

ACT	Amazon Cooperation Treaty
AfDB	African Development Bank
AsDB	Asian Development Bank
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
COFO	FAO's Committee on Forestry
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
ECE	See UNECE.
EFI	European Forestry Institute
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTOS	Global Terrestrial Observing System
IADB	Interamerican Development Bank
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
IUFRO	International Union of Forestry Research Organizations
MAB	Man and Biosphere Programme (UNESCO)
OAS/OEA	Organization of American States
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SPIF	Swiss-Peruvian Initiative on Forests
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
WB	The World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

The CSD, at its third session (April 1995), reviewed progress achieved in the implementation of the Forest Principles and of Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, and established an open-ended ad-hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) to pursue consensus and co-ordinated proposals for action to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. It was decided that the IPF should meet four times and submit a final report to the fifth session of the CSD which will be held in 1997.

The IPF was tasked to pursue consensus and formulate coordinated proposals for action under 11 issues (programme elements) clustered into five categories of issues for priority action, namely:

I Implementation of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) decisions related to forests at the national and international level, including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages; (includes five Programme Elements I.1-I.5);
II International Cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer;
III Scientific research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management; (includes two Programme Elements III.1 and III.2)
IV Trade and environment relating to forest products and services; and
V International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments including appropriate legal mechanisms. (includes two Programme Elements V.1 and V.2)

The CSD defined the scope of each element of the IPF agenda. With respect to item V.1, which is addressed in this report, it indicated that the IPF should:

> "Develop a clearer view of the work being carried out by international organizations and multilateral institutions and under existing instruments as appropriate, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), in forest-related issues, including UNCED decisions related to forests, and the institutional linkages emanating therefrom, in order to identify any gaps, areas requiring enhancement, as well as areas of duplication."

The IPF, at its first session, held in New York from 11 to 15 September 1995, indicated that the preparation for Item V.1:

> "would include a report presenting the overview and description of existing institutions and instruments , including their role and mandates *vis a vis* programme elements I to IV. and identifying institutional linkages, gaps, areas requiring enhancement, and any areas of duplication".

At the second session of IPF, held in Geneva from 11 to 22 March 1996, the Programme Element V.1 underwent an initial discussion. Its third session is scheduled for 9 to 20 September 1996 in Geneva, and the fourth and final session will take place in New York in early 1997. The Panel's final conclusions and recommendations are to be submitted to the CSD at its fifth session in April 1997. The CSD will report to a special session of the General Assembly, to be held in June 1997, which will review the progress achieved since UNCED.

I.2 The Swiss Peruvian Initiative on Forests

During the First Session of the IPF the Swiss and the Peruvian Government, jointly offered to support the work of IPF through the preparation of a study on item V.1 of its programme.

For that purpose the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative on Forests (SPIF) invited Governments, through the Chairmen of the Regional Groups in New York, to submit names of experts to be considered for an Independent Expert Group (IEG) to assist in the development of the study. It also invited the Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) community to appoint three experts from their own constituencies. The mandate of the Group supported IPF's mandate as defined by the third session of the CSD as well as the guidance given at the first and second session of the IPF.

At its second session (Geneva, 11-22 March, 1996) the IPF had its initial discussions on Programme Element V.1, based on the Secretary General's Report (E/CN.17/IPF/1996/12). The outcome of those discussions are contained in the Report of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its Second Session (E/CN.17/1996/24). The IPF made further recommendations regarding the content of the analysis. During the discussions several delegations commented positively on the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative on Forests. At that occasion the Representative of Peru (Co-Chairman of the SPIF) reported on the developments under the SPIF.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 UNCED

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, concluded its deliberations by approving the Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests.

The General Assembly of the United Nations endorsed the results of UNCED in December 1992 including the proposal to establish a Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to review progress and evaluate the implementation of the UNCED. The CSD will report on its findings to a Special Session of the General Assembly in 1997, tentatively scheduled for the 9 to 14 June 1997 in New York, USA.

2.2 Post Rio Regional Processes and Initiatives

Since Rio, several governments initiated forest-related processes aimed primarily at the development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. These initiatives, including groups of experts were either organized along lines of geographical regions, forest type, or other common interests or shared problems. Notable among these initiatives were, the Montreal Process, the Helsinki Process, the Tarapoto Process, the Malaysia/Canada Initiative and the India/UK Initiative.

2.3 The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

The Programme Elements of the work programme of the IPF cover, in-short: I.1 "national forest and land use plans"; I.2 "underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation"; I.3 "traditional forest related knowledge"; I.4 "afforestation, reforestation, restoration of fragile ecosystems, areas affected by desertification and drought and in forests affected by pollution"; I.5 "countries with low forest cover"; II "coordination, financial resources and technology transfer"; III.1 "assessment and valuation"; III.2 "criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management"; IV "trade in forest products and the environment"; V "international organizations, multilateral institutions and instruments including appropriate legal mechanisms".

2.4 Approach and Methodology of the Work of the Independent Group of Experts

In the context of the above discussion, international organizations, multilateral institutions and existing legal instruments also face the rapidly changing perceptions and demands on forests. The nature of their work is changing and will change significantly in the future in areas ranging from the focus of their assistance at the national level, coordination requirements (institutional, national, regional and international), to arrangements for servicing international policy debate. International organizations, governments, researchers, NGOs and other concerned entities and individuals should help further developing the still evolving knowledge about forest sustainable development and adapting their efforts to the new challenges facing forests worldwide. Thus the rationale for studying the roles, mandates and activities of these organizations in order to assess how best they could serve the future needs of their clients. The ultimate objective of this initiative is to provide a contribution to assess the role of international organizations and instruments in working towards the issues raised in the work programme of the IPF.

The IEG met twice in Geneva. Its first session was held from 5 to 7 March 1996 and its second session held from 24 to 28 June 1996. It comprised of 18 experts from the five United Nations regions and the NGO community. Both meetings were co-chaired by Mr Augusto Freyre and Dr Franz Schmithüsen. The Group invited representatives of some organizations and instruments to address its meetings.

The Group decided that its analysis and assessment of international organizations, multilateral institutions and existing instruments would be done against the framework provided by the Programme Elements of the work programme of IPF, differentiated by seven activities:

- Financing
- Technology Transfer and Cooperation
- Capacity Building
- Information Collection and Dissemination
- Coordination
- Research and Analysis, and
- Policy Formulation

The short descriptions provided in the following overview as well as the ensuing assessment are based on information supplied from four different sources: generally available literature; questionnaires completed by some organizations (FAO, ILO, ITTO, UNEP) in addition to other information supplied by the Organizations;.discussions with representatives of organizations during the meetings of the IEG; and the experience and knowledge of the members of the IEG.

The views expressed in this report are the result of discussions during the meetings in which experts took part in their personal capacities.

3. OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND EXISTING LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

3.1 General approach

Based on the mandate given by the CSD and the IPF in relation to programme element V.1 of the IPF agenda, the Independent Expert Group decided to consider in their analysis the international organizations, multilateral institutions and legal instruments/conventions as presented in the following Table:

International Organizations, multilateral institutions and legal instruments to be considered in the IEG report.

ORGANIZATIONS		
FAO	UNESCO/MAB	Helsinki Process
UNDP	UNIDO	Montreal Process
UNEP	WFP	IPCC
ITTO	IFAD	OECD
WTO	World Bank	IUFRO
UNCTAD	Regional Banks	ICRAF
ILO	GEF	CIFOR
LEGAL INSTRUMENTS/ CONVENTIONS		
Forest Principles	World Heritage	
Agenda 21- Chapter 11	ILO - 169 & 107	
Biological Diversity	CITES	
Desertification	Wetlands (Ramsar)	
Climate Change	ACT	
ITTA		

3.2 International Organizations and Multilateral Institutions

International organizations and multilateral institutions, especially those within the UN system, are obliged to primarily respond to decisions and guidance given by their governing bodies. Many international organizations with forest related activities were established at times and in environments with very different approaches to forests compared with the present. To varying degrees the guidance from governments through governing bodies has reflected the evolving perceptions and concerns about forests, and the organizations have responded according to resources made available for implementation. In different international organizations governments are usually represented by different sectoral ministries, often providing narrow perspectives. From an overarching point of view this is somewhat problematic as regards forests, which would demand a more integrated, multi-disciplinary approach. This was recognized in Agenda 21 where in chapter 38 it is stated that "Coordination and mutual complementarity of their efforts to promote integration of environment and development can be enhanced by encouraging countries to maintain positions in the various governing bodies". Even if there are definite drawbacks with the specialization of some of these organizations in approaching forest related problems, in some cases it has resulted in the building up of a critical mass of expertise and resources in some areas of great importance to forests.

A listing with brief descriptions of the mandates and forest-related activities of some international organizations and multilateral institutions is provided below in order to give a sense of scope and focus of these organizations.

Food and Agriculture Organization FAO

Mandate	Technical assistance in land-use planning including forestry and agriculture to developing countries and countries in transition (CIT), (resource management and processing, promotion of the development of the sector to reconcile the interface of social, protection and production factors). Information on all aspects of forestry and primary forest products.
Main forest programmes and issues	Global Forest Resources (assessment, management, protection, conservation, genetic resources, wildlife). Forest Products (harvesting, processing, utilization, marketing and trade, worldwide). Forest Policy and Planning (institutions, policy, statistics, community forestry, national forest action plans, international liaison and information).

United Nations Development Programme UNDP

Mandate	Assist developing countries to accelerate their economic and social development by providing assistance geared to their objectives Implementing agency for Global Environment Facility, leading UN-agency on capacity-building issues
Main forest programmes and issues	Capacity-building programmes to implement Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) (Forest Capacity Programme); Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Programmes to implement Agenda 21 through Capacity 21

United Nations Environment Programme

Mandate	Promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and sustainable development; Keep under review the state of the world environment; Promote acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge; Formulate and implement environment programmes within the UN technical agencies
Main forest programmes and issues	Contribution to TFAP and Global Forest Resources Assessments; Pilot projects on integrated forestry management; Ensure environmental considerations in forest related programmes; Prepare methodologies for assessing total value of forests; Prepare methodologies for assessing effects of acid rain; Forest Programme 1996 - 2000

International Tropical Timber Organization ITTO

Mandate	Promote trade on tropical timber; Implement ITTA (1983); Promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests with balance between conservation and utilization; Prevent deforestation in tropical forests; Implementation of ITTA (1994) once it enters into force.
Main forest programmes and issues	Economic information and market intelligence Reforestation and forest development Forest industry Guidelines on SFM, plantations, bio-diversity; natural forest management; multiple-use of hardwood forests; criteria and indicators; models for sustainable production of wood and non-wood products; timber situation; policy development

World Trade Organization WTO

Mandate	Facilitate and liberalize international trade, supervise the settlement of commercial conflicts, recognize the need to protect environment and to promote sustainable development

Main forest programmes and issues	Committee on Trade and Environment: explore link between trade and environmental policies (compatibility between environment protection measures and WTO rights and obligations)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development UNCTAD

Mandate	Help restructure the traditional patterns of international trade in order to enable developing countries to participate in world commerce.
Main forest programmes and issues	Integrated Programme for Commodities (Tropical Timber). Action on tariffs and non-tariff barriers in the sector of wood and wood products

International Labour Organization ILO

Mandate	Raise work and living standards throughout the world; social and labour aspects of forestry
Main forest programmes and issues	Joint Committee FAO/ECE/ILO on Forest Technology, Management and Technology Technical cooperation, training, employment and development, sectoral activities conditions of work and working environment, industrial relations

Man and Biosphere Programme MAB/UNESCO

Mandate	Develop scientific basis for the rational use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere, including forests.
Main forest programmes and issues	Encourage the establishment of international biosphere reserve network (conservation of genetic resources, ecosystems and bio-diversity; research and monitoring network; association of environmental protection with sustainable land resources conservation)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization UNIDO

Mandate	Promotion and acceleration of industrial development in developing countries with a view to facilitating the establishment of a new international economic order
Main forest programmes and issues	Environmentally sustainable industrial development

World Food Programme WFP

Mandate	Help people combating hunger and poverty, provide life-sustain relief and promote social and economic development

Main forest programmes and issues	Forestry (forest protection committees, nursery, reforestation, forest infrastructures development) Rural development, Transport activities, Human resources development, Social, Land reclamation, Irrigation, Road building

International Fund for Agriculture Development IFAD

Mandate	Mobilize additional financial resources from donors to be made available on concessional terms for agriculture development and the improvement of food production in developing Member States
Main forest programmes and issues	Activities included as thay relate to food security, improvement of nutritional levels and incomes of poorest rural population

World Bank

Mandate	Raise standards of living in the poorer developing countries through the provision of financial resources
Main forest programmes and issues	Lending Programme (industrial forestry and social and environment forestry); Free standing forestry projects; Social or rural development end environment forestry programme; Watershed management/Land use projects

Asian Development Bank

Mandate	Assistance of Developing Member Countries of the Bank
Main forest programmes and issues	Policy and Regulatory Framework; Support to Technological, Policy and Valuation Research; Promoting Public Participation in Forestry Development; Investment Strategies; Cooperation with International and Regional Initiatives; Selection and Design of Investments Projects

African Development Bank

Mandate	Promote economic and social development in its member countries
Main forest programmes and issues	Forestry Policy Paper: derive maximum economic and environmental benefits from forest resources (conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forests; fuelwood and industrial plantations; raising sawn timber production capacity; natural resource conservation; technical and technical assistance)

Inter-American Development Bank

Mandate	Financing development of borrowing member States; supplement private investment; and provide technical assistance for preparation, financing and implementation of development plans and projects
Main forest programmes and issues	Included in rural development programmes, Watershed management activities, national environment programmes, etc. Funding subject to government commitment to sustainable forest management. Support to governmental and non-governmental bodies.

Global Environment Facility

Mandate	Help developing countries protect the global environment by providing grants and concessional funding for activities to address global warming, bio-diversity, international water and ozone depletion
Main forest programmes and issues	Bio-diversity: forest ecosystems (development, strengthening and establishment of sustainable use methods in forestry, wildlife and bio-diversity conservation) Climate change: rural renewable energy, biofuel activities, carbon sink enhancement, restoration, prevention and reduction of land degradation

Montreal Process

Mandate	International Dialogue on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests
Main forest programmes and issues	Development and Endorsement of the non-legally binding criteria and indicators by 12 developing and developed countries in the northern and southern hemisphere covering almost 90 per cent of temperate and boreal forests; Implementation at national level

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (including the Helsinki Process)

Mandate	Cooperation of all countries in the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe; recommendations and themes to be further developed by international organizations and their subsidiary bodies; process as reference for other fora

Main forest programmes and issues	Monitoring forest ecosystems; genetic resources; forest fires; mountain forests; research network on physiology and forest ecosystems; Guidelines for SFM, conservation of bio-diversity, adaptation to climate change; (Helsinki Process) Cooperation with countries in transition; Criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forests in Europe

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC (WMO - UNEP)

Mandate	Periodical assessment of the scientific and technical information related to the impact of climate change and adaptation response to it
Main forest programmes and issues	Improvement of forestry and agriculture, potential for increasing energy efficiency, cleaner energy sources and technology Forestry options: slowing currently deforestation and forest degradation, increasing forest biomass, improving use of wood, afforestation

Organization on Economic Cooperation and Development

Mandate	To achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment; to promote economic and social welfare through the OECD area and to stimulate and harmonize its members' efforts in favour of developing countries.
Main forest programmes and issues	Incorporated within mandate of the Development Assistance Committee

International Union of Forestry Research Organizations IUFRO

Mandate	Promote international cooperation in scientific studies embracing research related to forestry. Facilitating the world exchange of ideas, creating contacts, encouraging common research programmes, disseminate research results.
Main forest programmes and issues	Forest environment and silviculture; Forest plants and forest protection; Forest Operations and techniques; Inventory, Growth, Yield and Management Systems; Forest Products; Social, Economic, Information and Policy Sciences. Task Force on Air-Pollution/Forest Decline Special Programme for Developing Countries

International Centre for Research in Agro-Forestry ICRAF

Mandate	Increase social, economic and nutritional well-beingof people of developing countries. Research to integrate woody perennials in farming and related land-use systems. Mitigate tropical deforestation through improved agroforestry systems
Main forest programmes and issues	Improvement of agroforestry systems. Multipurpose-tree improvement; Strengthening education capacity of universities and technical colleges. Information to support agroforestry research, training and development

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Mandate	Research and related activities in forest systems and forestry for the sustainable well-being of people in developing countries
Main forest programmes and issues	Sustainable production of multiple goods and services from natural forests; management and Conservation of Biodiversity; Improved forestry options on degraded and low-potential sites.

3.3 Existing Legal Instruments

Forest issues covered by existing legal instruments are somewhat different in nature from those covered by organizations and institutions as they are governed by legal commitments agreed among countries. They are in some cases relevant to some functions of forests, but not all. Some of them have only recently come into force and their operational capacity and effectiveness still remains to be seen. In most cases the operational activities of the conventions are decided upon by their respective Conference of Parties (COP).

Several international agreements and conventions of global or regional scope, which have some bearing on forests have been developed, signed or come into force during the last three decades, such as , for example, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat or Ramsar Convention, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, etc. None of them were developed with a direct orientation towards sustainable forest management but have or may have a strong influence on conservation and sustainable forest management.

The Wetlands Convention, ITTA and CITES as well as the ACT have been in force for a number of years and are therefore fully operational while the FCCC and the CBD have come into force only recently and are still in their initial phases of implementation.

The Independent Expert Group selected the following instruments for consideration in their report. These instruments are different in nature as well as in their level of implementation. The listing is followed by short descriptions of the instruments:

Agenda 21 - Chapter 11 (1992)
Forest Principles (1992)
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)(1992)
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)(1994)
Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)(1992)
International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) (1983) (1994)
UNESCO - Heritage (1975)
ILO-107 & 169
Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1973)
Ramsar Convention (1971)
Amazonian Cooperation Treaty (ACT) (1978)

Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (The Forest Principles)

Two legal instruments containing provisions covering all five programme elements of IPF agenda are Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, and the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (The Forest Principles).

These two instruments reflect an integral approach which recognizes the multiple roles of forests, as well as its multiple values. Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, and the Forest Principles recognized many of the complex issues facing forest.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity, establishes as objectives: "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding"

Among the specific obligations of Parties to the Convention we can find those of developing national strategies, undertaking the identification and monitoring of components of biological diversity, establishing systems of protected areas, facilitating access to genetic resources,

facilitating access to technology and biotechnology, protecting the knowledge of traditional and indigenous communities, providing financial resources for developing countries.

The fulfillment of these obligations may result in benefits for all forest areas, but the Convention does not address specifically all issues in the terms requested under Chapter 11 or the Forest Principles, that is, taking into account its multiple roles and values.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was opened for signature in October 1994 and is expected to enter into force by early 1997. Member States, once the Convention enters into force, will have to decide on the location of its Permanent Secretariat. At the time of writing this report 34 countries have ratified the Convention. Fifty are necessary for its entering into force. Three countries are offering to host the Permanent Secretariat: Canada, Germany and Spain, an issue which should be resolved by the Conference of parties, once the Convention enters into force.

The Convention to Combat Desertification places a strong emphasis on land uses, with special provisions to urgently solve the problems of African countries, and addressing specifically the protection of traditional knowledge, and some trade practices that may cause desertification.

The Convention to Combat Desertification makes little direct reference to forests. It is clear however that in the process of measuring the various degrees of the desertification process, the loss of vegetation, including trees, forests and other wooded lands, is to be taken into consideration. Furthermore it is difficult to consider combating desertification at the field level without including into the plans and projects a forest or tree planting component. The Convention underlines the need to take full consideration of the special needs and circumstances of affected developing countries Parties, particularly those needing assistance. The Convention advocates for an integrated approach addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the process of desertification and drought. Programmes and plans are to be developed ensuring the participation of local populations and communities. It should improve cooperation and coordination at sub-regional, regional and international levels.

Article 8 of the Convention refers to the need to encourage the coordination of activities carried out under this convention with those of other Conventions in particular the FCCC and the CBD. The Parties shall encourage the conduct of joint programmes, particularly in the field of research, training, systematic observation and information collection and exchange. The Convention should promote the development of Regional, Sub-regional and National action programmes. Guidelines for the preparation of action programmes and their exact focus and content for particular sub-regions and regions are set out in the regional implementation annexes of the Convention.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change

The objective of this Convention is *"the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system"*. This convention recognizes the important ecological role of forests, as carbon sinks, and in implementing greenhouse gas reductions, countries may impact in a positive manner the conditions of forests, either increasing the amount of land under forest cover, or conserving the existing forest areas, but the Convention does not address other forestry related issues.

International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA)

The ITTA was concluded in 1983 and renegotiated between 1992 and 1994. In 1994 a successor Agreement was concluded which is not yet in force but the national constitutional processes are underway for its entry into force. This agreement is restricted to producers and consumers of tropical hardwood timber. It is a commodity agreement to promote utilization and conservation of tropical timber resources. A key strategy is the measures adopted to ensure exports of tropical timber and timber products from sustainable sources by the year 2000.

Provisions of the 1994 agreement with particular relevance to the IPF programme of work are:

Article 1 (b) which provides "a forum for consultation to promote non-discriminatory trade practices";
Article 1(d) which seeks "to enhance the capacity of members to implement a strategy for achieving exports of tropical timber from sustainably managed sources by the year 2000";
Article 1(e) which "promotes the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainable sources by improving the structural conditions in international markets.....by taking into account .....prices which reflect the costs of sustainable forest management and which are remunerative and equitable for members, and the improvement of market access";
Article 1(j) which encourages "members to support and develop industrial tropical timber reforestation and forest management activities as well as rehabilitation of degraded forest land, with due regard for the interests of local communities dependent on forest resources";
Article 1 (l) which encourages "members to develop policies aimed at sustainable utilization and conservation of timber producing forests and their genetic resources and at maintaining ecological balance in the regions concerned, in the context of tropical timber trade"; and
Article 1(n) which encourages "information sharing on the international timber market".

Acceptance of the Objective Year 2000 by both producer and consumer countries (the latter in a separate statement attached to the ITTA) has fueled debate and action on internationally agreed criteria and indicators by which to measure sustainability. ITTA is also one of the key fora for the on-going debates on trade and environment in forest products, in particular timber certification.

UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

The emphasis of UNESCO Convention for the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage is on the protection of natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological, anthropological, scientific, geological or natural point of view. This instrument has a mechanism which enables the establishment of *"recognized sites"*, which may receive some kind of support under the convention. Under this convention, as in the previous case, it is possible to think that by protecting sites of universal value the international community also includes forest sites of particular importance.

ILO 169 Convention

The ILO 169 Convention, which superseded ILO 107, establishes the obligation, for State Parties, to develop jointly with the interested peoples, a coordinated and systematic action to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, and to ensure their integrity. The ILO 169 Convention contains provisions regarding the protection of land-use rights of indigenous people and the protection of their traditional life styles. The protection of these rights is an important action which may result in the sustainable use of forests owned, used or inhabited by indigenous communities, although this Convention does not expressly refer to forestry issues.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CITES aims to control or limit the international trade on endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Endangered species of trees may fall under the regulations of this convention. The problem with the approach of CITES, is that it only refers to those species which are endangered, and definitely does not have an integral approach, since it only refers to international trade in such species.

CITES has been dealing with endangered forest species of wild fauna and flora. It has recently created within its structure a temporary Timber Working Group (1994). The Timber Working Group shall:

a) review the trade in timber of species included in Appendix II before the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, based on information included in the annual reports, Notification to the Parties No. 787, reports from the Secretariat and information provided by the Parties involved in this trade; and

b) provide recommendations to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the possible need to amend certain administrative and enforcement procedures for the implementation of the Convention for trade in specimens of species included in Appendices II and III.

CITES application may have a positive role in the conservation and sustainable management of forest species through the regulation of trade of endangered forest species (not only timber species). Conflicts may eventually occur in relation with international agreements within the frame of the WTO or ITTO.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)

The Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat, known as the Ramsar Convention, imposes on Contracting Parties the obligation to "formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory". The biological relation between wetlands and forest ecosystems is well known by experts. Departing from this acknowledgment, it is possible to think that by protecting wetlands, forestry ecosystems will be protected, and vice-versa.

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) is a regional treaty among countries of the Amazonian Basin: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. Together, these countries possess over half the world's tropical forests. The ACT is aimed at the promotion of harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories towards producing equitable and mutually beneficial results and achieve also the preservation of the environment, and the conservation and rational utilization of natural resources of those territories.

The ACT does not directly mention forests but addresses issues related to natural resources, flora and fauna, the need to maintain ecological balance , the preservation of species, close cooperation in the fields of scientific and technological research, plus several considerations regarding social and economic development within the territories concerned.

IV. ASSESSMENT AND INDEPENDENT EXPERT GROUP STATEMENTS.

General observations

Following UNCED practically all international organizations and multilateral institutions related to forests and forestry made significant efforts to respond to the decisions of the Conference. This is mostly due to the fact that countries attending UNCED are member countries of those organizations and participate in the deliberations of their respective governing bodies. Furthermore the decisions of UNCED represented the willingness of a large part of the world's society. Those decisions included the participation of major groups in the decision-making process.

International organizations and multilateral institutions had however to internalize those decisions within the framework of their respective basic texts, mandates, by-laws and structures and within the limitations of their own capacities and budgets.

Even though general mandates and by-laws of these organizations are of interest to the objectives of this study, the countries and people concerned would be more interested in the opportunity, quality and quantity of programmes, projects and local activities.

It is also clear that in some cases the general mandates of organizations can be somehow overstretched or bypassed due to a series of factors including specific local or national needs, project flexibility and the influence of other external factors.

Within the process of identifying gaps, duplications and areas subject to enhancement one useful approach is to also consider the operational level. Due however to the short deadlines within which this study had to be developed that level of analysis could not be envisaged.

The Independent Expert Group (IEG), while looking into the programmes, projects and activities reported by organizations and other concerned bodies recognized that some of those programmes, projects or activities are not necessarily involving all regions, countries or types of forests and are not always as successful, timely and efficient as they are expected to be.

The IEG also noted that a difference should be made between programmes and activities which examine an area as compared to those which lead to addressing the problem. Therefore while most organizations selected for review seem to produce information regarding the IPF programme areas, as they relate to their respective terms of reference, and many have specific policies related to those areas, they are less successful in helping the countries to implement them on the ground through concrete assistance.

The World Bank and the Regional Banks have recently and with still relative little effect, initiated the incorporation of the UNCED recommendations in their forestry related policies. In some cases bank policies on other sectors of economy are encouraging conflicting situations as related to sustainable forests management.

UN Regional Economic Commissions have been unevenly dealing with some aspects of forest development but seem to be slow in incorporating UNCED decisions into their current activities.

It is however clear to the IEG that the responsibility of international organizations, multilateral institutions and the orientation of existing instruments lies on their respective secretariats but also in the guidance given to them by their member states and on the financial resources that are made available for their operation.

The IEG identified the need for enhanced international high level dialogue on forest issues. It also noted the value of the ongoing dialogue within the frame of the IPF and stressed the need to ensure continuation of this dialogue which includes major groups.

I Implementation of UNCED decisions related to forest at the national and international levels including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages.

I.1 National forestry and land use plans

Within this programme element the organizations and instruments to be reviewed include FAO, UNDP, UNEP, WB, CBD, CCD, ITTO, CIFOR, ICRAF and the Regional Banks. Their basic mandates and programmes are different in nature as are their respective procedures, areas of involvement and experience and capabilities. Some of them operate with a great deal of independence while others are used to coordinate at least part of their activities with other bodies. For example UNEP's main mandate is to play a catalytic role while the World Bank and the Regional Banks have funding functions. The scope of ITTO is fundamentally oriented to tropical hardwood timber. CIFOR concentrates on research and so far has focused mostly on tropical forests.

It is clear that wherever the need for land use plans is referred or underlined, the responsibility for its formulation and implementation still lies with the national authorities and organizations. Many developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDC), will need appropriate information, transfer of technology, technical cooperation and financial assistance for their formulation and implementation.

The organizations specialized in funding have only recently initiated consideration of forest resources in a more comprehensive way. In the past forest lending had been mostly oriented to the increase of timber production for industrial and trade purposes.

The Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the Convention to Combat Desertification refer specifically to the need of developing land use plans. The IEG underlined the importance of taking forest into consideration when developing these land use plans and the need to ensure local participation in their formulation. The need for land use plans is emphasized by the CSD and has also been referred to within the Forest Principles.

The IEG expressed its concern for the fact that most national and international activities in forestry planning are still too focused on the narrow view of forests as a timber producing resource while paying little attention to other goods and services produced by the forests, and to the social and ecological aspects of sustainable forest management, as referred in the Forest Principles. The IEG pointed out that cross-sectorial analysis of national forestry and land-use plans in developed countries was needed.

The IEG identified the need for enhanced high level intergovernmental policy dialogue on forest planning and management which include participation of major groups.

During at least the last two decades, international assistance has been mainly oriented towards tropical forests. Temperate forest was mainly perceived as a resource of developed countries. It is only recently that all types of forests are being addressed with a more balanced approach. The assessment of the situation of boreal forests has only recently been addressed by the international community and the existence of temperate forests in developing countries recognized. Furthermore, more attention has been given by international organizations to dense forests while wooded lands such as natural climax boreal forest areas, wooded savannas, cerrado and other scarcely wooded lands have been ignored or given insufficient attention.

In both the World Bank and the FAO there is a lack of a cross-sectoral approach. In the FAO this is partly because the work of the Forestry Department is not well coordinated with the Agriculture Department.

The World Bank's 1991 Forest policy emphasized the need for cross-sectoral approaches. However the Forest Policy Implementation Review of 1994 had shown that the Bank pays inadequate attention to the impact on forests of its own non-forest sector lending. Concern was expressed about the problems being experienced by the Central Forest Unit of the Bank, which had been created to link the work of the Bank's Agriculture and Environment Departments but has now been downsized.

The need for a multidisciplinary approach was stressed. FAO's Committe on Forestry (COFO) was considered to be dominated by forestry industry specialists, which reinforce the narrow sectoral approach. However, it was noted that the influence of the Forest Principles was beginning to be felt at the COFO discussions.

Most international organizations need to increase their cross-sectoral analysis as it relates to rural development, forestry, agriculture, environmental conservation and other related activities including the global implications for all types of forests. This is, in most cases a reflection of existing administrative structures and financial mechanisms but also a model derived from traditional administrative structures at country level. Recent developments within some of these organizations can be attributed to UNCED deliberations and decisions.

Lending policies of some banks do not pay sufficient attention to the needs of cross sectoral analysis, although some developments have been witnessed in some of them as is the case of the Forest Policies of the Asian Development Bank.

Land tenure issues as they relate to landless farmers, indigenous peoples and forest dwellers need increased attention by international organizations as well as adequate mechanisms and structures to ensure local participation within the decision making process. Positive developments in this sector can be perceived within the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat

Desertification as well as in Chapter 26 of Agenda 21 and in the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

The need for national governments and international organizations to incorporate the concepts of the recent conventions into national planning was stressed by the IEG. The international organizations should cooperate in filling these gaps through capacity-building efforts.

In relation with activities carried out under the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) and particularly by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) results of research related to forest resources should be followed closely by international organizations and possibly incorporated to national planning efforts.

The IEG noted the duplication of efforts in the area of planning frameworks under different institutions and instruments such as the NFP, NEA, NAP exercises as well as in the CBD, which leads to problems in sectoral planning and to uncoordinated national planning.

I.2 Underlying causes of deforestation

Organizations and instruments most closely concerned with this programme element include FAO, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNDP, WTO, ITTO, WB, Regional Banks and the CCD.

Most agencies of the system have worked on the identification of the causes and effects of deforestation. General conclusions have been derived from those efforts but experience has shown that concrete action geared towards reversing the current trends has not been successful enough. There needs to be a better understanding of those causes as well as on the consequences of deforestation and on the levels at which action is needed.

The IEG perceived a lack of clear mandates, coordination and action in this area and the need to fill the gap. Clear action oriented decisions in these area are urgently needed.

Even though changes in the current deforestation trends are to be addressed at the local and national level and within sovereign countries, most developing countries will need international cooperation to significantly reverse the situation. Cooperation for this purpose will not only be necessary for direct reforestation purpose but for coping with the primary causes of deforestation.

It was noted that the conversion of forests to agricultural lands by displaced and landless peasants was an urgent problem requiring an institutional response. The lack of an international agency effectively assisting national agrarian reforms was noted. Although an international declaration expressing a commitment to agrarian reform (the Peasants' Charter) had been adopted by 145 countries in 1979, and had become a central aspect of FAO's work, the programme has been virtually abandoned. Landlessness, on the other hand, has increased. The World Bank also argues that it cannot finance agrarian reforms and no longer applies its 1976 policy on land reform.

The role of organizations such as FAO, UNDP, UNEP, ITTO, the World Bank and the Regional Banks should be better coordinated in order to ensure efficient action. The long term effects of WTO provisions as they relate to this process, should be closely monitored. UNCTAD is working on equitable conditions in forest products trade, combined with sustainable forest management practices, which could be a significant tool in reverting the deforestation process.

I.3 Protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge.

In relation with this programme areas the IEG considered that the organizations and instruments that are more closely related include FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO/MAB, UNRISD. WHO, the GEF, ICRAF, CIFOR, CCD and CBD .

This programme area, even though highly relevant to sustainable forest management, has been insufficiently developed within the international organizations' programmes. Traditional knowledge is recognized in the ILO 169 convention as well as in the CBD and the CCD. The subject should be specifically incorporated in the mandates and programmes of the most relevant international organizations. Mechanisms to better understand the value and applications of traditional knowledge are to be developed. Despite the relevance and interest in this subject area. it was recognized by the IEG that there is still a lot more required by international organizations in relation to the compilation, utilization, valuation and protection of this knowledge that would orient the development of adequate mechanisms. The benefits of the utilizations of traditional knowledge should revert in some way to the guardians of that know-how.

The outcome of the implementation process of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in this area are still to be assessed. It is to be reminded that CBD states the need to develop national legislation with respect to the promotion of traditional knowledge. Other bodies involved in the process at the international level are UNESCO both through its MAB Programme and the World Heritage Convention, and the FAO international undertaking on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which recognizes "Farmers Rights".

The IEG reviewed the role and influence of the TRIPS aspects of GATT to this theme, noting the provisions for *sui-generis* national legal IPR regimes. Apart from the CBD and related text in the ILO 169 Convention, the only international agreement dealing directly with this issue can be found in Andean Pact decisions. While recognizing that national governments have the ultimate authority on this matter, it was felt that regional initiatives should be promoted to address the issue.

It was noted that a prior condition to the protection of indigenous and traditional knowledge, is the need to protect communities rights and access to land, resources and the recognition of their own institutions. Only ILO 169 convention touches upon this issue, although the OAS and the UN are considering draft declarations on this regard..

I.4 Afforestation, reforestation, restoration of fragile eco-systems, areas affected by desertification and/or drought and in forests affected by pollution.

International organizations and instruments most concerned with the subject of areas affected by desertification and/or drought include FAO, UNEP, UNDP, CCD while the problems related to the effects of airborne pollutants on forests have been mostly addressed by UNEP and UNECE.

The Convention to Combat Desertification has an explicit mandate to deal with this subject and in particular under the Annexes. UNEP has developed since the United Nations Conference on Desertification (UNCOD) specific programmes on this area, including an Activity Centre. Success of UNCOD recommendations were inadequate, probably due to political and financial weakness. Other organizations such as FAO, UNDP-UNSO, the World Bank and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) have also developed activities in this area. Their programmes on rural infrastructure, pastoral development, irrigation and forestry have all impacts on these fragile ecosystems. The UNESCO MAB programme has developed research in this areas as well as IUFRO. ICRAF has also been working in this area. Increased research in tree species for drylands is necessary.

Further implementation of the CCD may provide an appropriate framework for action and coordination, particularly in research, and technical cooperation and information. The CCD strongly support collaboration and coordination with other conventions and institutions. Several international organizations have been participating in the early stages of preparation for the implementation of the Convention and in particular, UNEP, IFAD and UNDP/UNSO. The absence of adequate research structures for forestry research as related to dryland forestry should also be addressed.

The IEG pointed out that the CCD stresses the need for participatory mechanisms and the need for land tenure reforms to ensure local control and management based on land security in order to effectively combat the problems. International organizations need to build up their capacity to assist countries to meet this need, and include more expertise in land tenure issues.

Concurrently with the discussions of the IEG another country led initiative sponsored by Cape Verde, Portugal and Senegal is addressing the subject with a more comprehensive approach. The conclusions of that initiative should be taken into considerations in the further development of this issue.

There is a growing concern about the transboundary affects of airborne pollutants. Therefore there is a need for collaborative action in this area. Action, however should be taken at regional levels and in specific areas where the problem exists. It was noted that the Convention on Long-

Range Transboundary Air Pollution was limited in its geographical scope to Europe. Action should focus on emissions control rather than in adopting mitigatory measures in downwind areas. UNEP and the ECE have assisted in developing methodologies for assessing the impact of airborne pollutants on forests.

The Group noted that radioactive pollution in forests as well as dispersion of radioactive particles through, inter_alia, forest fires need to be addresses adequately by strengthening relevant programmes of the IAEA and UN-ECE.

I.5 Needs of countries with low forest cover

International organizations and instruments most concerned with this subject area include FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, ITTO, UNITAR, CCD, ICRAF, and IFAD.

The concept of low forest cover is not sufficiently clear as there are still varying approaches and definitions in use. Both the CBD and the CCD could address this issue but the implementation phase of these instruments are still in their very early stages. Future policies and programmes at the international institutional level will need to be strengthened or formulated accordingly with the needs of those areas.

II International cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer

International organizations and instruments most concerned with this subject area include FAO, UNDP, WB, WFP, IFAD, ITTO, CBD, FCCC, GEF and the Regional Banks,

Technology transfer appears to be the area given the least attention by international organizations. FAO has contribute in some measure to the transfer of technology in resource assessment, timber harvesting, forest management and reforestation within its basic mandate and in collaboration with other funding agencies such as UNDP and bilateral organizations. The
UNDP has been involved in the transfer of technology as part of its development activities at national level. The World Bank and the Regional Banks have also assisted individual countries through loans and grants in the transfer of technologies for the processing of timber produce.

Other institutions involved in this activities are UNCTAD, UNIDO and UNITAR.

The international institutions need to strengthen their work in technology transfer and capacity building. Traditional knowledge should be incorporated in these programmes.

Furthermore information regarding existence and accessibility to technology transfer sources should be facilitated. Acquisition of technology available in the public domain should be promoted.

Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 identifies the need for technology transfer related to forests and forestry. The IEG reviewed the activities of ITTO, UNDP, UNIDO and CIFOR. The Group felt that this area should be reinforced and that international mechanisms could be considered to facilitate transfer of technology. This specific role could be attributed to one organization in order to identify needs, sources and to promote transfer. Current financial constraints could hamper further development of this subject particularly when considering that a substantive part of technology has to be purchase in the public domain. Emphasis should be anyhow given to environmentally friendly technology.

Coordination of bilateral and multilateral assistance.

The IEG believe that there is an increasing need for better coordination between multilateral agencies, funding sources and bilateral donors at the national level. The international systems should secure additional funding from public and private sources and develop strategies and innovative procedures. The significant efforts in funding made at the local level should be better assessed in order to provide a more balanced picture of the efforts being made. Non-monetary contributions done by local communities should be considered in this analysis.

Under current procedures there is a strong competition in securing funds by the respective international organizations very often addressing the same donors.

Attempts to revamp the TFAP had proposed an international coordination mechanism including NGOs and indigenous people, but was not agreeble to the FAO Conference. The Consultative Group established in its place by the FAO has never met. There is a lack of an effective mechanism for donor coordination which includes the participation of major groups.

The group underlined the need for increased funding of United Nations Organizations and the need to identify funding sources for action at the national level. The Group considered there was room for improvement in the coordination of financing of UN Agencies. Concern was expressed about the degree of conditionality adopted even in concessional financing.

There is a need to create a database of different multilateral agencies, their programmes and funds available so that countries can access those programmes which suit their individual needs.

Existing funding rules and mechanisms within the CBD and the GEF were considered by the Group. The considerable discrepancies between the GEF Global Benefits and the concept of funding incremental costs in relation to biodiversity conservation was highlighted. The IEG also noted that indigenous peoples are concerned that strict application of the "global benefit" criterion poses an obstacle to support for their initiatives.

III Scientific research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

III.1 Assessing and valuing multiple benefits of forests

The IEG felt that FAO, UNEP, the WB, ITTO CIFOR, ICRAF and IUFRO, are the main international organizations and instruments related to this programme area.

Regarding the assessment of multiple benefits of forests some preliminary data bases have been developed by some international organizations but only covering restricted segments. Basic methodologies are still to be developed and agreed upon.

There is still a lack of appropriate methodologies to ascribe values in a comprehensive approach to forests resources and in particularly when it refers to ecological services and social benefits. UNEP has promoted the development in collaboration with FAO and the World Bank of some preliminary studies on this subject. However, despite the recommendations of Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 little progress has been accomplished.

The IEG noted that it would be mutually beneficial and enriching to ensure effective cooperation between FAO's forest resource assessment programme and the initiative to harmonize reporting requirements under various Convention, particularly CBD, FCCC and CCD.

The work done by the International Boreal Forest Research Association was noted by the IEG. It was also mentioned that OECD is carrying out a study of forest resources to assess multiple benefits of forests. There is still a pressing need for global data bases on all types of forests. Some of this need could be considered within the development of the Global Terrestrial Observations System (GTOS).

Efforts should be carried out through an open, transparent and participatory decision-making process that should include all interested parties including indigenous and local communities. Much international financing of conservation efforts did not observe such principles and caused problems such as denial of land rights and forced relocation.

It was queried whether the FAO's forest assessment process duplicated the Global Biodiversity Assessment of UNEP. The shortage of resources for the FAO's forests assessment process was noted. The problem stemmed partly from the fact that the FAO budget is discussed by representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, which in most cases do not prioritize forests.

III.2 Criteria and Indicators

Since the conclusion of UNCED several initiatives have been launched to address the issue of sustainable forest management, including work on criteria and indicators. In order to approach the

issue it was felt necessary to open discussion on the meaning of SFD and to develop the basic criteria and indicators which would help in evaluating forest status.

The Helsinki Process, the Tarapoto Process, developed under the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the Montreal Process, have developed different but comparable sets of criteria and indicators. ITTO, in the meantime has developed criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management focused on tropical hardwood forests. It was noted that not all forested countries are involved in these processes. This can still be considered as the early stages of an evolving subject and one on which the final acceptance, applications and real effects are to be seen. There is still political disagreement on the eventual global use of Criteria and Indicators as they exist today.

Following the proliferation of Criteria and Indicators processes FAO is trying to harmonize the current results.

It was noted that most forests are inhabited. In order to be in accordance with the Forest Principles and Agenda 21 criteria and indicators processes must take into account the rights and interests of these peoples.

IV Trade and environment relating to forest products and services

The IEG considered that FAO, WTO, UNCTAD, CITES and ITTO (ITTA-1994) are, within this area, the most relevant organizations and instruments to be considered.

CITES concerned with international trade of endangered species of flora and fauna has established recently a Timber Working Group to analyze mechanisms for the control of timber from some tree species included in appendixes II and III of that convention.

UNCTAD, concerned with analysis of global trade practices and with commodity agreements has also been looking into the subject of timber labeling.

WTO concerned with global trade rules and practices has established a committee on environment and trade.

FAO has a database on forest products and prices.

Certification and labeling schemes are proliferating as these measures are perceived as one possible tool to promote sustainable forest management. The passable procedures, scopes and effects are still under discussion and common views, even among producing or among consuming countries, are not yet agreed upon.

Annex I

List of Participants to the First and Second Sessions of the Independent Expert Group of the Swiss-Peruvian Initiative on Forests

First Session - 4-7 March 1996, Geneva
Second Session - 24-28 June 1996, Geneva

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Mr Augusto Freyre
Minister
Deputy Chief of Mission
Peruvian Embassy
SES Avda das Naçoes
Lote 43
Brasilia D.F. 70428-900
Brazil
Tel: (55 61) 242 9076 (direct)
Fax: (55 61) 243 5677

Professor Franz Schmithüsen
Dept. of Forest Policy and Forest Economy
D-WAHO
EPFZ Centre
8092 Zürich
Switzerland
Tel: (41 1) 632 3217
Fax: (41 1) 532 1110

MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT GROUP

Mr Se-Kyung Chong
Research Scientist
Forestry Research Institute
207 Chongnyangni-dong
Tongdaemun-gu
Seoul 130-012
Korea
Tel: (82 2) 961 2525
Fax: (82 2) 967 5101

Dr Marcus Colchester
Director
Forest Peoples Programme
8 Chapel Row
Chadlington
Oxfordshire OX7 3NA
England
Tel: (44 1608) 676691
Fax: (44 1608) 676743
email: wrm@gn.apc.org

Mr Antonio F. Cruz de Mello[1]
Permanent Mission of Brazil
to the United Nations
747 Third Avenue
9th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: (1 212) 832 6868
Fax: (1 212) 371 5716

Mr Peter C. Gondo [2]
Manager FES
1 Orange Grove Drive
P.O. Box HG139
Highlands, Harare
Zimbabwe
Tel: (263 4) 498436/9
Fax: (263 4) 497066

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[1] Attended first session of SPIF/IEG

[2] Attended second session of SPIF/IEG

Mr Rod Holesgrove
Director
Forest Policy Unit
Federal Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
Canberra
2601 Australia
Tel: (61 6) 274 1319
Fax: (61 6) 274 1322
email: rholesgrove@dest.gov.au

Dr Victor A. Ipatyev, Director
Forest Institute
71 Proletarskaya Str.
Gomel, Belarus
Tel: (375 232) 53 14 23
Fax: (375 232) 53 53 89

Mr Carlos Luzuriaga C.
Former Planning Director
Instituto Ecuatoriano Forestal y de Areas
Naturales y Vida Silvestre (INEFAN)
Avds. Eloy Alfaro y Amazonas esq.
Edif. MAG, Piso 8
Quito, Ecuador
Tel: (593 2) 467 951
Fax: (593 2) 459 899

Mr Franklin Moore
Center for Environment
G/ENV/ENR
FA-18, Room 509
Washington, D.C. 20523-1812
USA
Tel: (1 703) 875 7309/875 4106
Fax: (1 703) 875 4639

Ms Sunita Narain
Deputy Director
Centre for Science and Environment
41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area
New Delhi 110 062
India
Tel: (91 11) 698 1110/698 1124
Fax: (91 11) 698 5879/698 0870
email: sunitan@csc2.unv.ernet.in

Mr Edward Nsenkyiure [3]
Chief Conservator of Forests
Forestry Department
P.O. Box 527
Accra, Ghana
Tel: (233 21) 777 023
Fax: (233 21) 772 728

Mr Antonio Otavio Sa Ricarte [4]
Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva
Ancienne Route 17B
1218 Grand Saconnex
Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 929 0900
Fax: (41 22) 788 2505/2506

Mr. S.K. Pande [5]
Additional Inspector General of Forests
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Paryavaran Bhawan
Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003
Tel: (91 11) 436 2785
Fax: (91 11) 436 3232

Ms Diana Ponce Nava
Asesora
Secretaria de Medio Ambiente
Lateral Periferico Sur 4209
60 Piso
Col. Jardines en la Montaña
14210 Mexico, D.F.
Tel: (52 5) 628 0713
Fax: (52 5) 628 0644
email: dponcenava@laneta.apc.org

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[3] Attended second session of SPIF/IEG

[4] Attended second session of SPIF/IEG

[5] Unable to attend (regrets)

Mrs Birgitta Stenius-Mladenov, Director
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Political Department/
Division of Int. Environmental Affairs
P.O. Box 176
SF-00161 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: (3580) 134151
Fax: (3580) 1341 5285

Mr Valentin V. Strakhov, Director
All-Russian Research & Information Centre for Forests Resources (ARICFR)
Federal Forest Service of Russia
Novocheryornushkinskaya str. 69
117418 Moscow
Russian Federation
Tel: (95 7) 332 5538
Fax: (95 7) 331 0533
email: strakhov@aricfr.msk.su

Ms Micha Torres
Pro-Naturaleza
P.O. Box 18-1393
Lima, Peru
Tel: (51 1) 446 3801/241 2264
Fax: (51 1) 446 9178
email: postmaster@fpcn.org.pe

Dr Ivan Voloscuk, Director
Slovak National Parks Service
Tatranska Lomnica
Slovakia Republic
Tel: (42 969) 967 124, 967 351-3
Fax: (42 969) 967124

Mr Rui Zheng, Director
Division of International Programmes
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Forestry
18 Hepingli Dongjie
Beijing 100714
People's Republic of China
Tel/fax: (86 10) 6421 3184

COORDINATOR:

Mr Bernardo Zentilli
Swiss-Peruvian Initiative on Forests
9-11 rue Varembé
C.P. 60
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 749 2435
Fax: (41 22) 749 2454
email: spif@ge.maxess.ch

IPF SECRETARIAT

Mr Jag Maini
Coordinator & Head
Secretariat, IPF/DSD/DPCSD
Room DC2-1270
United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: (1 212) 963 3160
Fax: (1 212) 963 3463
email: maini@un.org

Ms Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist
Sustainable Development Officer
Secretariat, IPF/DSD/DPCSD
Room DC2-1264
United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: (1 212) 963 3263
Fax: (1 212) 963 3463
email: barsk-rundquiste@un.org

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Forests and Landscape:

Mrs Monika Linn Locher
Head of Section
International Affairs Division
Federal Office of the Environment,
Forestry and Landscape
P.O. Box
3003 Bern, Switzerland
Tel: (41 31) 322 90 91
Fax: (41 31) 351 31 87

Mr Pierre Mühlemann
Deputy Head
Forest Economy and Policy Section
Federal Office of the Environment,
Forestry and Landscape
P.O. Box
3003 Bern, Switzerland
Tel: (41 31) 324 77 80
Fax: (41 31) 324 77 89

AGENCIES AND CONVENTIONS: [4]

Mr James B. Ball
Senior Forestry Officer (Plantations)
Forest Resources Development Service
Forest Resources Division
Forestry Department
FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: (39 6) 522 54047
Fax: (39 6) 522 55137

Mr Ralph C. Schmidt
Senior Programme Advisor
Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (SEED)/BPPS
UNDP
304 East 45th Street
10th Floor
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: (1 212) 906 5088
Fax: (1 212) 906 6973
email: ralph.schmidt@undp.org

Mr Olivier Jalbert
Legal Advisor
Convention to Combat Desertification
Interim Secretariat
Geneva Executive Center
11/13 Chemin des Anémones - BP 76
1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 979 9409
Fax: (41 22) 979 9030/31
email: ojalbert.incd@unep.ch

Mr Ger Van Vliet
Plants Officer
CITES
16, chemin des Anémones
Case postale 456
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 979 9139
Fax: (41 22) 797 3417

Mr J. Aggrey-Orleans
Assistant Director
Economic Information & Market Intelligence
International Tropical Timber Organization
International Organizations Center, 5th Floor
Pacifico-Yokohama 1-1-1
Minato-Mirae, Nishi-Ku
Yokohama 220, Japan
Tel: +81 45 223 1110
Fax: +81 45 223 1111
email: pehana@itto.or.jp

Mr Sipi Jaakkola
Senior Scientific Officer
Regional office for Europe
United Nations Environment Programme
15, Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 979 9281
Fax: +41 22 979 9024
E-mail: sjaakkola@unep.ch

Mr Sálvano Briceño.
Principal Officer
Framework Convention on Climate Change
Geneva Executive Center. 11-13 chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland.
Tel. +41 22 979 9111.
Fax +41 22 9799034

Mr Lee Swepston
Chief, Equality and Human Rights Coordination Branch
International Labour Organization
4, rte des Morillons
1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 799 7151
Fax: (41 22) 799 6926

[4] Representatives to first and/or second session of SPIF/IEG

Mr Francisco Perez-Trejo
Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Centre
413 St. Jacques Street
Montréal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9
Tel: (1 514) 288 2220
Fax: (1 514) 288 6588

Annex 2

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Annex 3 Profile Sample

SWISS-PERUVIAN INITIATIVE ON FORESTS
Report of the Independent Expert Group

Report on International Organizations, Chapter 1:
Overview on organizations

"Portrait" of the organization

max. 2 pages for level 1-organization, 1 page for level 2 and 3-organization

Name	
Mandate	
Organization	
Forest and forestry programmes	
Activities within the forest and forestry programmes	1. 2. 3. 4.
Human resources for forest and forestry programmes	
Financial resources for forest and forestry programmes	
Main results of the last audit or evaluation, year	

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1. Union of International Associations (1995): Yearbook of International Organizations 1995/96 (32nd edition). Vol 1 organization descriptions and cross references. K-G. Saur Verlag München. p.

Annex 4 **Questionnaire Sample**

Organisation: *European Forest Agency*

Programme Element IPF: **I.1. National Forests Plans and Programmes**

Priority given to this element in the organisation: (9=higher, 1=lower, 0=none)

Description of activities	Financing	Technology transfer & cooperation	Capacity building Education, Training	Information collection, dissemination	Coordination	Research & Analysis	Policy formulation
1. Training in evaluation of policies	national Europe		national Europe		Europe		national Europe
2.		**SAMPLE**					
3.							
4.							

Information required: level (local, national, regional or global) and geographical frame of these activities

Resources allocated for these activities: *1 mio CHF p.a.*

Organisation to implement these activities: *1 division (10 persons) of the organisation*

Collaboration with other organisations: *UN-ECE, FAO, ILO*

Participation of local populations and major groups in these activities: *local populations, local NGOs*